

The brutal method Dr. Gosnell used to ensure death from a botched abortion, severing the spinal cord of a baby born alive, is disgusting. I pray we are all shocked and disturbed by what has been revealed about abortion during this trial.

While Dr. Gosnell stands trial, there are more than a million babies who die from abortion each year in the United States. That's almost two times more deaths than caused by cancer in the U.S. every year and two times more than heart disease.

Abortion is taking an innocent life, and we have to stand against it. Life is precious. Children are precious. People talk about choice when we talk about abortion. I encourage more Americans to choose life and protect the most innocent in our Nation.

FAA SEQUESTER

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, the sequester is still hurting our constituents. And despite votes today, Congress is continuing to turn a blind eye to many communities affected by these draconian, across-the-board cuts.

Yes, we should not furlough air traffic controllers and other FAA employees. It's not smart, and I know as a Representative from Nevada that it is unnecessarily hurting tourism and local economies.

But House Republicans continue to ignore the impacts of the cuts on Head Start, on Title I schools, and on the Meals on Wheels program for our seniors. Why is that? Why are these students and seniors still on the chopping block? Do their interests not count in the Halls of Congress?

These mindless cuts are harming our kids' futures and our seniors' well-being, and this Congress is long overdue in paying attention to their needs. I've said before, Mr. Speaker, I'm willing to work with anyone from either side of the aisle to come up with solutions to replace the sequester, but we need to do it for all communities, not just one.

MEDICARE MARKET PRICING PROGRAM ACT OF 2013

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the legislative process, effective communication can help bring attention to important issues and advance good policy. Unfortunately, all too often rhetoric doesn't match reality.

Take, for example, Medicare's so-called competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment. The program was intended to reduce Medicare costs and ensure that beneficiaries have access to quality services. In

practice, the system denies competition, which hurts small business providers, and worsens access to quality services, which harms seniors.

In fact, despite the program's catchy title, more than 240 market auction experts and economists have warned that the Medicare bidding program harms competition and will ultimately hurt patients.

Today I've joined in support of legislation, H.R. 1717, the Medicare Market Pricing Program Act of 2013, which would replace this program with one that's not just labeled competitive, but is competitive, and maintains beneficiary access to quality items and services.

I encourage my colleagues to join in support of the Medicare Market Pricing Program Act of 2013.

COMMENDING HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there's an amazing collection of young people from around the country that are gathering in our Nation's Capital this weekend. They are part of the annual competition on the United States Constitution. It is my pleasure to visit with my constituents from Grant High School from Portland this morning, young people who have dug deep into the Constitution. They're passionately prepared to defend the principles, and are developing skills that'll last a lifetime.

It is unfortunate that Congress has failed to support the Classroom Law Project budgetarily. I would hope that there's an opportunity to reflect on what these young people are doing and what we could do in addition if we stepped back up and provided the resources so they could be available for more young people. At a time when America faces challenges and there is a breakdown in the other body not even being able to approve gun background checks something that 90 percent of the American people want, we ought to be supporting young people who are doing this important work of democracy.

I congratulate Grant High School, teacher David Lickey, and their coaches who are working with them. Regardless of the outcome, they are already winners.

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REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1461

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) as a cosponsor of H.R. 1461.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. With the darkness and decay that has descended upon this country, we have a remedy, I'm glad to report here. This coming week, next Thursday, we can celebrate the 62nd Annual National Day of Prayer in the United States by official proclamation.

It's played a vital role, prayer, in the formation of this country by our Founders; and we have this opportunity, not just on this day, but every day, as we do at the beginning of the session in this body. I encourage everybody to take part.

I have artwork next to me here that hangs in my office here, and there's a prayer for guidance that George Washington once wrote and offered, and I would like to do an excerpt of that, given time.

That excerpt will be:

Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the gospel; give me repentance from dead works; pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto Thyself, the God of my salvation; teach me how to live in Thy fear, labor in Thy service, and ever to run in the ways of Thy commandments.

I'd advise read the rest, but please remember National Day of Prayer, May 2, next week.

THE EFFECTS OF THE SEQUESTER

(Mr. CONYERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have a one-sentence bill, H.R. 900, that repeals the sequester, and many of my colleagues have already begun talking about it and joining with me on it today.

These cuts are currently diminishing our Nation's education quality, our research output, leaving more with untreated mental illness, more hunger, more homelessness and fewer Federal criminal prosecutions. The sequester means that we'll have 2,100 less food inspectors for examining the safety of our food.

If Congress is unable to craft a bipartisan agreement that takes sequestration off the table, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900, my one-sentence bill to repeal the sequester.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS CLAIMS FASTER FILING ACT

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)